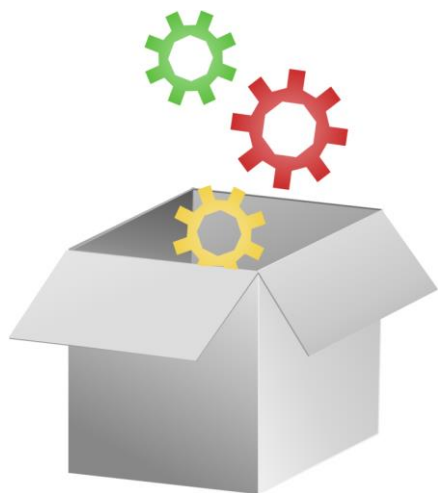


MethodSCRIPT SDK Example - C



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1 Contents

The example *MethodSCRIPTExample.c* found in the */MethodSCRIPTExample_C* folder demonstrates basic communication with the EmStat Pico. The example allows the user to start measurements on the EmStat Pico from a Windows PC using a simple C program which makes use of the MethodSCRIPT SDK (C libraries).

2 Basic Console Example (MethodSCRIPTExample.c)

This example demonstrates how to implement serial communication with the EmStat Pico to

- Establish a connection with the device
- Write a MethodSCRIPT to the device
- Read and parse the measurement data packages from the device
- Print the parsed data to the console
- Write the parsed data to a CSV file

This does not include error handling, method validation etc.

This example is build using Eclipse CDK and the MinGW toolset.

The console output of one of the examples is shown below.

```
<terminated> (exit value: 0) MethodSCRIPTExample-C.exe [C/C++ Application]
Serial port successfully connected to EmStat Pico.

MethodSCRIPT sent to EmStat Pico.

Response begin
Measuring...

Receiving measurement response:

1      E(V): -0.500    i(A) : -2.979E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
2      E(V): -0.450    i(A) : -2.979E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
3      E(V): -0.400    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
4      E(V): -0.351    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
5      E(V): -0.301    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
6      E(V): -0.251    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
7      E(V): -0.201    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
8      E(V): -0.151    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
9      E(V): -0.102    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
10     E(V): -0.052    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
11     E(V): -0.002    i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
12     E(V): 0.048     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
13     E(V): 0.098     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
14     E(V): 0.147     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
15     E(V): 0.197     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
16     E(V): 0.247     i(A) : -2.979E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
17     E(V): 0.297     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
18     E(V): 0.347     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
19     E(V): 0.396     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
20     E(V): 0.446     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
21     E(V): 0.496     i(A) : -2.974E-005    Status: OK          CR: 1mA (High speed)
Measurement completed. 21 data point(s) received.
```

3 Communications

The *MSComm.c* from the MethodSCRIPT SDK (C libraries) acts as the communication object to read/write from/to the EmStat Pico.

The functions in the code snippet below are the necessary read/write functions defined in the C example. *WriteToDevice* writes a char to the EmStat Pico and *ReadFromDevice* returns the first byte from the read buffer as soon as there is data available in the buffer.

```
int WriteToDevice(char c)
{
    char writeChar[2] = {c, '\0'};
    if (WriteFile(hCom, writeChar, 1, &dwBytesWritten, NULL))
    {
        return 1;
    }
    return 0;
}

int ReadFromDevice()
{
    char tempChar;           // Temporary character used for reading
    DWORD noBytesRead;
    ReadFile(hCom,           // Handle of the Serial port
    &tempChar,               // Temporary character
    sizeof(tempChar),        // Size of TempChar
    &noBytesRead,            // Number of bytes read
    NULL);
    //Check for timeout
    if(noBytesRead != sizeof(tempChar))
        return -1;          //Return -1 on timeout
    return (int)tempChar;
}
```

The read/write functions are required to initiate the *MSComm* communication library.

```
MSComm msComm;
RetCode code = MSCommInit(&msComm, &WriteToDevice, &ReadFromDevice);
```

3.1 Connecting to the device

The following code snippet shows how to open a serial com port using the Windows API. In order to use the Windows API for serial communication, the *windows.h* header has to be included in the C program's header file as below.

```
#include <windows.h>
```

A valid handle to the port to which the EmStat Pico is connected is necessary for the read/write functions in the *MSComm* library. The code below can be used to open the com port connected to the device.

```
HANDLE hCom;
hCom = CreateFile(PORT_NAME, GENERIC_READ | GENERIC_WRITE, 0, // must be
opened with exclusive-access
    NULL, // no security attributes
    OPEN_EXISTING, // must use OPEN_EXISTING
    0, // not overlapped I/O
    NULL // hTemplate must be NULL for comm devices
);
```

```
const char* PORT_NAME = "\\\\.\\COM37";
```

The name of the com port connected to the device can be found in the Device Manager in Control Panel in Windows as shown below.

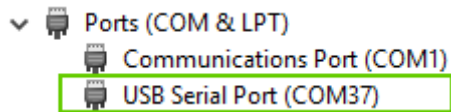


Fig: Available com ports in Device Manager

Once a valid handle is created, settings like baud rate (230400), databits (8), parity (None) and stopbits (1) has to be set using the Device Control Block (DCB) object.

3.2 Sending the MethodSCRIPT

The MethodSCRIPT can be read from a txt file stored in the PC. In this example, the MethodSCRIPT files are stored in the ScriptFiles directory. The code snippet below is used in the example to read the MethodSCRIPT from the file and in turn send it to the device.

```
int SendScriptFile(char* fileName)
{
    FILE *fp;
    char str[100];

    fp = fopen(fileName, "r");
    if (fp == NULL) {
        printf("Could not open file %s", fileName);
        return 1;
    }
    // Reads a single line from the script file and sends it to the device.
    while (fgets(str, 100, fp) != NULL)
    {
        WriteStr(&msComm, str);
    }
    fclose(fp);
    return 1;
}
```

3.3 Receiving measurement data packages

This example uses the *MSComm* library to receive and parse the data packages from a measurement. In order to read and parse the measurement data packages from the device, the Receive Package function from the *MSComm* library can be used. This function requires a reference to an initiated *MSComm* struct (*msComm*) and it returns the parsed data in the referenced MeasureData struct (*data*)

```
code = ReceivePackage(&msComm, &data);
```

3.4 Parsing the measurement data packages

Each measurement data package returned by the function *ReadBuf()* in *MSComm* library, can be parsed further to obtain the actual data values. Here's a set of data packages received from a Linear Sweep Voltammetry (LSV) measurement on a dummy cell with 10 kohm resistance.

```
e\n
M0000\n
Pda7F85F3Fu;ba48D503Dp,10,288\n
Pda7F9234Bu;ba4E2C324p,10,288\n
Pda806EC24u;baAE16C6Dp,10,288\n
Pda807B031u;baB360495p,10,288\n
*\n
\n
```

While parsing a measurement package, various identifiers are used to identify the type of package. For example, In the above sample,

1. 'e' is the confirmation of the "execute MethodSCRIPT" command.
2. 'M' marks the beginning of a measurement loop.
3. 'P' marks the beginning of a measurement data package.
4. "*" marks the end of a measurement loop.
5. "\n" marks the end of the MethodSCRIPT.

Most techniques return the data values Potential (set cell potential in V) and Current (measured current in A). The data values to be received from a measurement can be sent through 'pck' commands in the MethodSCRIPT.

In case of Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) measurements, the following *variable types* can be sent with the MethodSCRIPT and received as measurement data values.

- Frequency (set frequency in Hz)
- Real part of complex Impedance (measured impedance in Ohm)
- Imaginary part of complex Impedance (measured impedance in Ohm)

The following metadata values can also be obtained from the data packages, if present.

- CurrentStatus (OK, Underload, Overload, Overload warning)
- CurrentRange (the current range in use)
- Noise

3.4.1 Parsing the measurement data packages

Each measurement data package begins with the header 'P' and is terminated by a '\n'. The measurement data package can be split into data value packages based on the delimiter ';'. Each of these data value packages can then be parsed separately to get the actual data values.

The type of data in a data package is identified by its variable type:

- The potential readings are identified by the string *da*
- The current readings are identified by the string *ba*
- The frequency readings are identified by the string *dc*
- The real impedance readings are identified by the string *cc*
- The imaginary impedance readings are identified by the string *cd*

For example, in the sample package seen above, the *variable types* are
da7F85F3Fu - *da* Potential reading and
ba48D503Dp,10,288 – *ba* current reading.

The following 8 characters hold the data value. The data value for the current reading (8 characters) from the above sample package is *48D503Dp*.

The SI unit prefix from the package can be obtained from the parameter value at position 8

In the above sample package, the unit prefix for current data is 'p' which is 1e-12 A.

After obtaining variable type and the data values from the package, the metadata values can be parsed if present.

3.4.2 Parsing the metadata values

The metadata values are separated based on the delimiter ',' and each of the values is further parsed to get the actual value.

The first character of each metadata value `metaData[0]` identifies the type of metadata.

'1' – status
'2' – Current range index
'4' - Noise

The metadata status is a 1 character hexadecimal bit mask.

For example, in the above sample, the metadata values for current reading data are, 10,288. The first metadata value is 10.

1 – metadata status – 0 indicates OK.

The metadata type current range is represented by a 2-digit hexadecimal value. If the first bit is high (0x80), it indicates a high-speed mode current range. The hexadecimal value can be converted to int to get the current range.

For example, in the above sample, the second metadata available is 288.

2 – indicates the type – current range
88 – indicates the hexadecimal value for current range index – 1mA. The first bit 8 implies that it is high- speed mode current range.

3.4.3 Sample output

3.4.3.1 LSV

Here's a sample measurement data package from a LSV measurement on a dummy cell with 10 kOhm resistance and its corresponding output.

Pda7F85F3Fu;ba4BA99F0p,10,288

Output: E (V) = -4.999E-01
 i (A) = -4.999E-01
 Status : OK
 CR : 1mA (High speed)

3.4.3.2 EIS

Here's a sample measurement data package from an EIS measurement on a dummy cell with 10 kOhm resistance and its corresponding output.

PdcDF5DFF4u;cc896D904m,10,287;cd82DB1A8u,10,287

Output: frequency(Hz): 100.0
 Zreal(Ohm): 9885.956
 Zimag(Ohm): 2.995
 Status: OK
 CR: 200uA (High speed)